

Message Text

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TAGS: TGEN, TATT, EEC
SUBJECT: MISSION APPROACH FOR STRENGTHENING U.S.-EC
- COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

REF: (A) 77 BRUSSELS 4710, (B) BRUSSELS 2076, (C) STATE
- 26692, (D) BRUSSELS 2171, (E) STATE 47579

1. THE FEBRUARY VISIT TO BRUSSELS OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY GANLEY (REF C) PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A USEFUL, INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR RESEARCH, SCIENCE, AND EDUCATION GUNTER SCHUSTER (DG XII) AND OTHER EC OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY REGARDING PRACTICAL STEPS TO IMPLEMENT EARLIER SUGGESTIONS TO EXPAND U.S.-EC COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OUTSIDE THE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AREA. THESE CONVERSATIONS INDICATED CONSIDERABLE EC COMMISSION INTEREST IN SUCH COOPERATION. THE VISIT TO BRUSSELS IN APRIL BY THE PRESIDENT'S SCIENCE ADVISOR DR. FRANK PRESS AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY MINK (OES) WILL ALSO OFFER OPPORTUNITIES TO ADVANCE EFFORTS TO LAY THE BASIS FOR GREATER
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COLLABORATION, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREAS DISCUSSED BELOW.

2. FIELDS OF COOPERATION: THE MISSION SUGGESTS THAT, BASED UPON CONVERSATIONS DURING DR. GANLEY'S VISIT, THE FOLLOWING FIELDS IN THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AREA OFFER POTENTIAL FOR THE RELATIVELY MODEST TYPE OF COOPERATIVE ACTIVITY SUGGESTED IN PARA 3 BELOW. THESE ARE AREAS IN

WHICH BOTH U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND THE EC COMMISSION ARE INVOLVED IN ONGOING OR PLANNED PROGRAMS.

A. EFFECTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ON SOCIETY:
STUDIES TO BRING ABOUT GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AS IT AFFECTS CONTEMPORARY LIFE, INCLUDING THE SOCIAL AND ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS OF AN INCREASINGLY TECHNOLOGY-DEPENDENT SOCIETY;

B. FORECASTING IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:

COMPARISONS OF TECHNIQUES FOR THE PREPARATION AND USE OF SHORT, MEDIUM, AND LONG-TERM FORECASTS AND ASSESSMENTS TO ESTABLISH OBJECTIVES, PRIORITIES AND PROGRAMS FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT;

C. SCIENCE INDICATORS:

EVALUATION OF METHODS AND STATISTICAL DATA USED IN MEASURING THE RATE OF TECHNICAL ADVANCEMENT AND INNOVATION;

D. COMPUTERS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND RELATED TECHNOLOGIES:

ASSESSMENT OF THE POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS OF COMPUTERS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND RELATED TECHNOLOGIES AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES
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E. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS:

EXAMINATIONS OF NEW FORMS OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND AN IDENTIFICATION OF THEIR ABILITY TO GENERATE, ABSORB AND UTILIZE NEW KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGICAL KNOW-HOW;

F. SEARCHING FOR RAW MATERIALS:

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF DEEP, HARD-TO-LOCATE MINERAL DEPOSITS AND FOR PROCESSING OF MINERALS;

G. MEDICAL AND BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH:

STUDIES IN THE FIELD OF MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT, AND HEALTH CARE;

H. INDUSTRIAL SAFETY:

RESEARCH IN AREAS OF SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AND CRITERIA,

INDUSTRIAL PHYSIOLOGY, AND INDUSTRIAL PSYCHOLOGY.

3. MODES OF COOPERATION: DRAWING ON THE EXPERIENCE OF PREVIOUSLY SUCCESSFUL COOPERATION IN ENERGY, NUCLEAR AND ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS, THE MISSION SUGGESTS THREE PRINCIPAL METHODS FOR U.S.-EC COOPERATION IN THE ABOVE FIELDS:

- JOINT SYMPOSIA;
- COORDINATED RESEARCH PROJECTS;

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- EXCHANGES OF PERSONNEL OR DOCUMENTATION.

4. GENERAL APPROACH: WE BELIEVE COOPERATION SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT UNDER FLEXIBLE AND INFORMAL ARRANGEMENTS ON A TOPIC-BY-TOPIC BASIS. AT THIS STAGE WE WOULD NOT RECOMMEND GOING INTO COLLABORATION REQUIRING FORMAL INDIVIDUAL PROJECT OR UMBRELLA-TYPE AGREEMENTS. EC OFFICIALS SHARE THIS OPINION.

5. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE IDEA OF ESTABLISHING A JOINT WORKING GROUP SHOULD BE CONSIDERED. THE WORKING GROUP COULD MEET ANNUALLY TO EVALUATE PROGRESS OF U.S.-EC COOPERATION, SELECT SPECIFIC TOPICS FOR ACTIVITIES AS NOTED IN PARA 3 ABOVE, DISCUSS AND RESOLVE PROBLEMS THAT MIGHT ARISE AND PROVIDE GENERAL CONTINUITY. IT MIGHT ALSO BE DESIRABLE TO REVIEW THE STATUS OF U.S.-EC SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION OCCASIONALLY DURING THE U.S.-EC SEMI-ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS, BUT THAT ISSUE CAN BE FACED LATER.

6. INITIATION OF THE COOPERATION PROCESS:

A. THE VISITS TO BRUSSELS IN APRIL OF DR. FRANK PRESS, THE PRESIDENT'S SCIENCE ADVISOR, AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY MINK (OES) (REFS B AND E) WILL PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A UNCLASSIFIED

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HIGH-LEVEL REAFFIRMATION OF THE INTEREST ON BOTH SIDES IN STRENGTHENING SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION, A GENERAL EXCHANGE ON WHAT FIELDS SUCH COOPERATION COULD COVER AND HOW IT COULD BE BEST CONDUCTED. THIS COULD LEAD TO AGREEMENT TO SET UP U.S.-EC INFORMAL WORKING GROUP (E.G., VIA EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN SCHUSTER AND MINK).

B. THE NEXT STEP COULD BE THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE U.S.-EC WORKING GROUP ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, PROBABLY IN BRUSSELS IN THE FALL OF 1978. THIS MEETING COULD WORK OUT THE DETAILS FOR EXCHANGES OF PERSONNEL, JOINT SYMPOSIA, OR PREPARATION FOR COORDINATION OF RESEARCH IN WHATEVER FIELDS APPEAR APPROPRIATE AT THE TIME. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT THIS WOULD BE AN APPROPRIATE TIME FOR NSF DIRECTOR ATKINSON TO RESCHEDULE HIS VISIT TO BRUSSELS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP (REF D).

7. ACTION REQUESTED: THE MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S REACTIONS TO THESE SUGGESTIONS AND ANY GUIDANCE AS TO VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS WE SHOULD CONVEY TO THE COMMISSION, PARTICULARLY IN RESPECT TO THE APPROACHING VISITS BY DR. PRESS AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY MINK. HINTON

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